

INSIDE THE FLY BY NIGHT

2006

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

Projected Finish

Urpaigh Dragons
Baton Rouge Silver Bullets
Illinois Prairie Dogs
Lake Wobegon Whippets
Maine Yaks
Milford Oysters

Ok, the AL East is this year's brutal division. Last year it was the NL West. This year's AL East could be the worst division in all the year's I've been doing this news letter. BRUTAL!!!

Maybe we should come up with some new rule that would exclude all crumby teams from the playoffs. There should be only two or three AL teams in the playoffs this year....and none of them are from this division.

I will say that Illinois has a pretty decent team, but they have had some decent talent for a few years now and can't seem to get over the hump. I was tempted to predict a division championship for Illinois, but couldn't bring myself to do it. Call it the Klubber effect.

Until I see Illinois win some games on the road I can never predict them to win.

Anyhow, since I can't predict Illinois to end up on top I have to go with the next best team, which in this case is Urpaigh. Then literally by default the Baton Rouge Silver Bullets become my favorite to win the wild card. Lake Wobegon is clearly in rebuild mode. Maine was devastated by injuries and age. Milford's GM is looking forward to watching all his prospects develop this year and see who his six first round picks next year will be. Larry, prove me wrong. Why not, the Klubbers and Jarheads do it every year to me.

-Upaign Dragons

-Starting pitching after Sabathia and 1/2 Pedro is very sketchy. But fear not....that is common in this division.

-Trever "freakin" Miller is your likely closing candidate. Nuff said. The pen is not real good. I assume Downs will be used there, but in a better scenario he'd be starting.

-Offensively, good on-base at the top of the order....pretty weak 7-9. Lots of 40 AB freak cards, for what that is worth.

-Good defense on the infield, not so good in the out field.

-Hard to believe I'm projecting this mediocre team to win the division, but that is how bad it is.

-Baton Rouge Silver Bullets

-Zambrano got a brutal on-base card vs. LHH. Bedard got a decent card. Very ugly after that, but good enough for second place.

-Zumaya and Bradford will anchor a slightly better than average bullpen. At least there is a little depth.

-Even without Babe Ruth....I mean Jim Thome, not a bad offense. Nice young core with Morneau and Zimmerman. Weak in the OF.

-Infield defense excellent, assuming Lofton plays CF the OF defense will be problematic.

-Middle of the road team but should surface as the primary contender to lose in round one a West team.

-Illinois Prairie Dogs

-Decent rotation. Harang and Francis are good and Glavine, Williams and Milton are serviceable. I was surprised Milton got a useable card. Best rotation in division.

-Decent defensive team. Crawford and Francoeur on the corner OF spots are as good as it gets. Infield lacks range.

-Outside of CF and RF, very good offense. Who knows if Bard, Teahen or Laroche had career years...better take advantage.

-This team should win the division, but I've been burned before. Dogs, show me you can step up and win one...you'll never have a better opportunity.

-Lake Wobegon Whippets

INSIDE THE FLY BY NIGHT

2006

- Down year for a team that normally contends. Primary culprit is the pitching.
- Starting pitching gets very ugly after Heren
- Bullpen is just ugly. Isringhausen had a bad year, Wainright get rights out....nothing much after that.
- Defense is brutal....4's everywhere...including CF, LF, 3B and a 5 at 1B.
- Offense is definitely the strong point with Giambi and Utley in the middle of the order, not bad.
- No pitching or defense, but in this division they could still win 80 games. Not a playoff contender however.

•Maine Yaks

- The pitching is brutal. Obviously retooling Barry made no effort to improve it for 2007 during the draft. He did draft some youth so if Harden gets healthy there is no reason they can't be in the hunt again next season.
- The loss of Lee really kills them offensively. Too much low on base vs RHP to score a lot of runs.
- Defensively not bad except for Peralta at SS. It'll be interesting to see if he bounces back offensive next year.
- Really bad team will battle Milford for last place.

•Milford Oysters

- As I'm sure you know...tons of top prospects with more on the way next year.
- A few guys like Jackson, Markakis and Young that can hit, but overall not a good offensive team.
- Verlander and Lee will win a few games by default, but the pen has to rank up there with the worst ever. I've had my share of bad teams but I always had at least one guy who was so-so that I could use as a closer. There is no one here. There will be a lot of long tedious 14-2 games in Milford this year.
- Will battle Maine for a lottery pick but could contend as soon as 2008.

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URPAINE DRAGONS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	<u>LINEUP</u> <u>VS LHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>LINEUP</u> <u>VS RHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	
1B)	HATTEBERG	502	4e5								
	YOUKILIS,K.	625.9	2e7								
2B)	ROBERTS	619	2e11	1	47	61	W	Youkilis-1B	43	53	2
	CARROLL	509	2e5	2	51	60	w	Carroll-2B	42	55	w
SS)	EVERETT	565	1e8	3	55	77	8	Ensberg-3B	42	53	5
3B)	ENSBERG	426	3e18	4	43	68	8	Edmonds-CF	42	62	8
	LAMB	---	4e33	5	48.5	94	8	Ibanez-LF	34	62	8
C)	HERNANDEZ	598	2(-1)e1	6	39	55	w	Lamb-DH	39	52	2
	BUCK	408	3(-1)e1	7	33	49	3	Hernandez-C	32	46	3
LF)	IBANEZ	689	4(0)e2	8	38	38	w	Mench-RF	26	35	2
	Kapler	143	2(-2)e4	9	30	51	w	Everett-SS	22	37	w
CF)	EDMONDS	385	2(-2)e5		42.7	61.4	3.0		35.8	50.6	3.3
	LANGERHANS	346.5	3(-1)e2	<u>Key Reserves:</u>				<u>Key Reserves:</u>			
RF)	MENCH	491	4(+1)e3	Buck-C	30	42	8	Valentin	30	40	8
	VALENTIN	463.1	4e37	Baker	55	126	8	Langerhans	32	42	1
DH)	LAMB	419		Morse	56	76	w	Baker	39	104	8
	BAKER	63		Harris	42	62	8	Hatteberg-1B	47	56	2
	MORSE	47						Roberts-2B	37	47	1
	HARRIS	47									

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>VS LHH:</u>			<u>VS RHP:</u>		
		<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
SABATHIA,C*	212	21	32	3	17	23	1
REDMAN,M.*	184	15	22	0	39	55	3
MARTINEZ,P.	146	20	24	2	13	31	8*
GONZALEZ, E	117	33	42	1	26	48	5
O'CONNOR*	116	27	48	3	23	37	5
RAMIREZ, E	114	28	42	3	29	45	1
JANSSEN	103	30	46	3	19	35	4
KARSTENS	47	20	29	0	14	35	8

<u>BULLPEN:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
MILLER*	56	19	30	5	12	26	2
WISE,M.	48	4	14	5	37	53	2
DOWNS *	85	20	34	1	22	36	3
MEADOWS	76	14	35	6	37	58	7
BELISLE	44	15	24	4	40	53	1

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BATON ROUGE SILVER BULLETS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	MORNEAU	651	3e9
2B)	LORETTA	699	3e5
SS)	BETANCOURT	613.8	2e21
	GUILLEN	---	2e33
3B)	ZIMMERMAN	675.4	1e16
C)	MARTIN	457	2(-2)e2
	ZAUN	319	3(+2)e3
	TORREALALBA	245	2(-1)e5
LF)	FELIZ	663	4(+1)e7
CF)	LOFTON	516	4(+2)e5
	LOGAN	99	2(+2)e7
	DUFFY	345.4	1(-1)e6
RF)	WILSON	551	4(0)e3
	SHEFFIELD	166	4(-1)e9
DH)	GUILLEN	597	
	SPILLBORGHS	184	
	GLOAD	172	

LINEUP VS LHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Logan-CF	45	66	1
2 Loretta-2B	39	45	1
3 Sheffield-RF	48	63	8
4 Morneau-1B	38	64	8
5 Zaun-C	47	68	3
6 Wilson-LF	31	44	7
7 Guillen-DH	35	51	4
8 Zimmerman-3B	36	51	2
9 Betancourt-SS	26	34	0
	<u>38.3</u>	<u>54.0</u>	<u>3.8</u>

Key Reserves:

Duffy-CF	26	29	2
Martin-C	41	53	1
Spillborghs-OF	38	51	w

LINEUP VS RHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Lofton-CF	41	55	w
Loretta-2B	35	41	w
Guillen-DH	48	65	4
Morneau-1B	40	60	8
Zimmerman-3B	36	52	4
Martin-C	36	48	1
Betancourt-SS	34	51	w
Feliz-LF	21	38	6
Wilson-RF	25	35	2
	<u>35.1</u>	<u>49.4</u>	<u>2.8</u>

Key Reserves:

Zaun-C	34	46	4
Gload-DH	41	49	0

VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
ZAMBRANO,C.	235	37	50	1*
BEDARD,E. *	216	24	25	0
HERNANDEZ,O	179	32	54	6
LOAIZA,E.	170	34	57	4
SANTOS	127	25	40	4
REYES	94	26	39	5

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
12	17	1*
26	34	1
18	30	1*
26	34	1
47	69	4
26	49	8

BULLPEN:

ZUMAYA	92	25	27	0	16	18	1
BRADFORD	68	20	31	0	20	25	0
SPINGER	65	19	45	7	9	16	4
CAPELLAN	79	24	42	6	21	41	4
FULTZ,A. *	78	28	38	0	31	54	3
STANTON,M *	74	30	37	0	24	34	0
THOMPSON	62	27	40	0	29	37	1

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ILLINOIS PRAIRIE DOGS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	LAROCHE	541	3e6
	GARKO	204	4e22
2B)	HILL	600.6	3e11
	DURHAM	548	3e14
SS)	ECKSTEIN	550	3e8
	GRAFFANINO	501.6	4e14
3B)	TEAHEN	432	3e22
	MACKOWIAK	280.5	4e23
C)	MILLER	364	3(0)e1
	BARD	274	2(-1)e3
LF)	CRAWFORD	660	1(0)e3
	MACKOWIAK	---	3(-2)e10
CF)	BYRNES	618	3(0)e1
RF)	FRANCOEUR	716.1	2(-4)e9
DH)	ORTIZ	613.8	

LINEUP

<i>VS LHP</i>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Eckstein-SS	37	38	w
2 Byrnes-CF	39	65	5
3 Durham-2B	43	77	8
4 Ortiz-DH	41	81	8
5 Laroche-1B	28	52	8
6 Crawford-LF	35	47	2
7 Teahen-3B	34	60	1
8 Francoeur-RF	28	43	7
9 Miller-C	38	64	w
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	35.9	58.6	4.3

LINEUP

<i>VS RHP</i>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Eckstein-SS	41	47	w
Crawford-LF	35	52	3
Ortiz-DH	46	84	8
Laroche-1B	35	64	8
Bard-C	50	66	2
Teahen-3B	35	56	8
Durham-2B	39	50	6
Francoeur-RF	21	29	5
Byrnes-CF	22	37	5
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	36.0	53.9	5.0

Key Reserves:

Bard-C	40	56	6
Hill-2B	38	41	0
Garko-1B	43	56	6

Key Reserves:

Graffanino	37	54	w
Hill-2B	36	48	w
Mackowiak-3B	44	55	0
Garko-1B	38	52	4

VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
HARANG,A.	258	21	36	1
FRANCIS*	219	18	28	0
GLAVINE,T. *	218	15	22	1
MILTON*	168	11	23	4
WILLIAMS	160	19	31	3
SAUNDERS*	78	17	22	0

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
22	34	3
20	34	2
28	42	3
25	46	5
28	43	5
31	42	3

BULLPEN:

OTSUKA,A.	66	24	26	0	9	13	0
JONES, T.	70	19	22	0	24	38	1
RAUCH	100	26	39	4	15	24	5
WICKMAN,B.	59	27	33	0	16	20	0
DESSENS	85	21	28	0	24	38	6

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LAKE WOBEGON WHIPPETS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	GIAMBI	491 5e21
	Utley	--- 3e24
2B)	UTLEY	724 3e19
	Weeks	--- 4e39
SS)	BARTLETT	366.3 3e21
	TULOWITZKI	105 3e14
3B)	LUGO	479 4e13
	BELLHORN	278 3e18
C)	MOLINA	459 2(-4)e1,T-6
	ALOMAR	119 4(+2)E1
	RUIZ	76 3(0)e16
LF)	PENA	303.6 4(+1)e7
	RODRIGUEZ, J	224.4 4(0)e5
	MATSUI	189 4(+1)e5
CF)	CRISP	454 4(+2)e2
	HART	261 4(0)e3
RF)	GILES	664 3(+1)e7
	SNELLING	105.6 4(0)e6
DH)	WEEKS	395
	WHITE, R	371

LINEUP

<u>VS LHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Giles-RF	31	41	w
2 Utley-2B	46	63	0
3 Giambi-1B	35	55	8*
4 Hart-CF	36	43	4
5 Bellhorn-3B	24	36	4
6 Rodriguez-LF	47	59	w
7 Weeks-DH	43	56	4
8 Bartlett-SS	40	44	w
9 Ruiz-C	31	52	6
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	37	50	2

LINEUP

<u>VS RHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Giles-RF	44	55	1
Weeks-DH	42	46	0
Utley-2B	37	58	5
Giambi-1B	51	75	8*
Pena-LF	36	64	8
Lugo-3B	40	51	1
Bartlett-SS	43	56	w
Crisp-CF	26	32	1
Molina-C	19	26	0
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	38	51	2

Key Reserves:

White-LF	27	34	0
Lugo-3B	31	38	3

Key Reserves:

Snelling-RF	44	59	3
Rodriguez-LF	41	59	w
Matsui-LF	49	66	7

VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
HAREN,D.	245	17	32	3
DAVIS,D.	224	36	48	1
WESTBROOK	232	29	32	1
MARCUM	86	36	51	4
LOE	86	31	48	1
SOWERS*	97	12	30	8

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
22	36	5
29	38	1
29	36	0
24	37	4
36	49	3
20	30	1

BULLPEN:

ISRINGHAUSEN	64	39	49	5	25	36	7*
WAINWRIGHT	83	34	48	5	9	15	0
GEARY	100	37	53	2	20	21	0
ACCARDO	76	20	26	2	30	44	2
MEDDERS	79	39	52	0	19	24	0

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MAINE YAKS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	LEE	193	2e18
	NADY	515	3e12
2B)	BARFIELD	592.9	3e10
	CINTRON	317	3e8
SS)	PERALTA	626	4e18
3B)	RODRIGUEZ	629	3e27
C)	PIERZNSKI	560	3(+1)e2
	BLANCO	265	2(-2)e1
LF)	MONROE	595	3(-1)e6
CF)	CAMERON	607	1(-1)e7
	TAVARES	---	2(-3)e7
RF)	MATHEWS	682	2(-1)e8
DH)	TAVARES	581.9	

<u>LINEUP</u>			
<u>VS LHP</u>			
	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Lee-1B	42	57	2
2 Barfield-2B	36	59	7
3 Cameron-CF	40	55	3
4 Rodriguez-3B	50	71	8
5 Nady-DH	46	59	7
6 Mathews-RF	39	64	6
7 Monroe-LF	30	51	w
8 Blanco-C	28	45	3
9 Peralta-SS	29	35	1
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	37.8	55.1	4.1

Key Reserves:

<u>LINEUP</u>			
<u>VS RHP</u>			
	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Tavarez-DH	37	43	w
Mathews-RF	39	52	1
Cameron-CF	38	59	5
Rodriguez-3B	41	57	7
Monroe-LF	22	50	8
Peirznski-C	34	48	3
Peralta-SS	34	43	1
Nady-1B	28	42	4
Barfield-2B	29	38	0
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	33.6	48.0	3.2

Key Reserves:

Cintron-2B	30	39	0
Lee-1B	42	54	5

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
WAKEFIELD	154	19	23	1	26	45	7
MADSON,R.	148	33	52	3	42	56	3
MARSHALL*	139	27	60	8	30	42	3
TAVAREZ,J.	108	31	47	3*	40	48	1
AFFELDT*	107	27	40	5*	35	44	3
OHKA,T.	107	26	44	5	27	40	2
HARDEN,R.	51	23	28	3*	27	33	2*

BULLPEN:

EYRE,S,*	67	31	49	8	25	35	3
MOTA	61	26	52	8*	23	35	7
FRASOR,J.	55	15	23	4	23	32	4
KENSING	42	25	37	7	23	42	4
MATHIESON	41	28	52	5	41	71	5

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MILFORD OYSTERS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>				<u>LINEUP</u>				
			<u>VS LHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>VS RHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	
1B)	PHILLIPS	270.6	3e19								
	KENDRICK	294	5e8	1 Ausmus-C	32	39	w	Ausmus-C	29	32	w
2B)	CANTU	454	4e21	2 Cantu-2B	17	35	7	Cantu-2B	29	37	2
	INFANTE	261.8	3e19	3 Markakis-LF	37	50	w	Markakis-RF	35	47	5
SS)	CLAYTON	499	4e25	4 Jackson-DH	40	47	2	Everett-LF	27	35	4
	DREW	230	3e16	5 Drew-SS	45	78	1	Jackson-DH	41	52	2
	Infante	---	3e36	6 Young-RF	45	66	3	Clayton-SS	25	37	w
3B)	NUNEZ	354	2e18	7 Kendrick-1B	29	50	w	Phillips-1B	26	46	4
	MCPHERSON	127	4e19	8 Infante-3B	30	37	3	Nunez-3B	21	27	w
C)	AUSMUS	483	1(+1)e1	9 Erstad-CF	28	41	w	Taguchi-CF	34	40	w
	IANNETTA	168.3	3(0)e12		33.7	49.2	1.8		29.7	39.2	1.9
LF)	EVERETT	339	5(0)e10								
	HERNANDEZ	167	4(+1)e15	<u>Key Reserves:</u>				<u>Key Reserves:</u>			
CF)	TAGUCHI	348	3(0)e12	Clayton-SS	39	47	w	Drew-SS	34	55	1
	BORCHARD	262.9	4(-1)e7					Young-RF	39	51	1
	ERSTAD	105	2(0)e2					Borchard-RF	33	43	5
RF)	MARKAKIS	540.1	2(-1)e2								
	YOUNG,D	139	2(-2)e5								
DH)	JACKSON	534									

		<u>VS LHH:</u>			<u>VS RHP:</u>		
<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
LEE,C. *	221	19	35	5	26	40	4
VERLANDER	205	26	37	4	23	29	1
SNELL	205	37	54	7	23	37	3
BENSON	201	30	48	8	25	34	3
HAMELS	145	20	37	3	22	37	3
ELARTON	126	28	44	8	27	47	8

<u>BULLPEN:</u>							
WRIGHT	172	29	39	2	40	52	3
CORMIER	81	35	40	2	45	67	2
BERGMAN	72	29	55	6	37	66	7
MATEO	59	47	62	5	22	34	3
SANCHEZ,J*	44	26	37	0	34	41	0
JACKSON*	41	37	54	7	30	46	3
FRUTO	40	41	43	0	30	42	5